industrial workers, the policy of the Congress is to secure for them a standard of living, hours of work and conditions of labour . . . suitable machinery for the settlement of disputes between employers and workmen, protection against the economic consequences of old age, sickness and unemployment and the right to strike for the protection of their interests." This policy, despite a certain vagueness, was hailed by the workers, and they looked forward to these demands being implemented. The Working Committee of February, I937> endorsed the specific demands and instructed Congress Members to work for "eight-hour day for industrial workers, living wage, and unemployment relief.'[3] After the Congress took office, Babu Rajendra Prasad said: "So long as Congress is not in full power it must adopt the line of ameliorative programme ... to embark on a radical programme till that power is achieved is hazardous. It will introduce class conflicts which would be harmful to the national movement in more ways than one," Some see in this statement a departure from previous assurances and a failure to realise the inherent conflict in existing class relationships.

But the strike wave mounted higher and higher. There was a general strike in Cawnpore of $4O_3$ooo workers and the slogan of the general strike was raised in almost every industrial town. The Bombay Government came out with a declaration of its labour policy, pledging itself to carry out the Congress programme, "using all the means at their disposal," but nothing very positive was done. Later the Cabinet appointed an Enquiry Committee.

The Labour Sub-Committee* of the Working Committee of the Congress met at Wardha in September, 1937, and stressed the urgent need of a uniform labour policy. In October a joint conference of this committee and Congress Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries of Labour met at